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OY (cont)

an absorbent core intermediate said topsheet and said backsheet, said core having two major faces, a first major face oriented toward said topsheet and a second major face oriented toward said backsheet, said first major face having a discontinuous ^{first} line of weakness therein, said line of weakness being longitudinally concave towards said lateral centerline, said line of weakness comprising discrete sites, said discrete sites being bilaterally staggered about said line of weakness wherein said sanitary napkin deforms to a convex upward configuration while in use.

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16. (Amended) A sanitary napkin having a longitudinal centerline and a lateral centerline orthogonal thereto, and having longitudinal side margins and transverse ends, said sanitary napkin comprising:

a liquid pervious topsheet;

a liquid impervious backsheet; and

an absorbent core intermediate said topsheet and said backsheet, wherein said absorbent core and said topsheet are joined together at discrete sites forming a line of weakness symmetric about said longitudinal axis and longitudinally concave towards said lateral centerline, wherein said discrete sites are bilaterally staggered about said line of weakness.

REMARKS

Independent Claims 1 and 16 are amended hereunder to incorporate the limitations of Claim 18, that the discrete sites be bilaterally staggered about the line of weakness. This arrangement provides the benefit cited in Applicants' Specification (10:35-37) that a more gradual bending axis occurs, improving the resiliency of the sanitary napkin and its ability to provide full target areas.

This arrangement is distinguishable over Glassman, both alone and in combination with the other art cited in the parent case. Glassman simply teaches spot depressions (4:49-68). Glassman does not teach 1) discrete sites forming lines of weakness concave towards the lateral centerline, or 2) discrete sites which are bilaterally staggered about such lines of weakness.

Nor are Glassman's deficiencies overcome by Buell (U.S. 5,197,959) or Sneller (WO 93/12747). Neither Buell nor Sneller teaches lines of weakness formed by discrete sites, much less lines of weakness having the aforementioned limitations.

Since the limitations of Claim 18 are incorporated into Claims 1 and 16, Claim 18 is canceled hereunder. Regarding Claim 11, the Examiner questions how each line of weakness can be symmetric about both centerlines. The Examiner only need refer to Figures 1, 2, 4 and 6 to envision such embodiments. However, in order to expedite prosecution on the merits, Applicants have simply canceled this claim. Claims 2-3 and 19 remain canceled from the parent case.

The Examiner is requested to enter the amendments to Claims 10, 15, and 17 from the parent application (Paper 7).

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Figure 6 is amended to show strips of adhesive radiating outwardly from the longitudinal centerline. This arrangement is disclosed in the Specification (pp. 11-12). For clarity, reference numeral 48 is added. No new matter is added.

The Examiner is requested to make of record and consider all prior art references cited in the parent application by either Applicants or by The Patent and Trademark Office.

Respectfully submitted,

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